

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164011

EXDIS LENINGRAD FOR FRANK CRUMP, WELLINGTON FOR RICHARD DOLS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, US, SF

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL VISITS TO SOUTH AFRICA

1. RECENT SCANDAL HAS EMERGED IN SOUTH AFRICA INVOLVING
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION. INCLUDED AMONG ALLEGATIONS
THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IS CHARGE THAT CERTAIN U.S.
CONGRESSMEN HAVE SOMEHOW BEEN INVOLVED.

2. SOURCE IN CBS TELEVISION HAS INFORMED THE AFRICAN
BUREAU THAT CBS HAS TESTIMONY FROM STATE DEPARTMENT
OFFICIAL THAT HE HAD WARNED CONGRESSMEN AGAINST
TRAVELLING TO SOUTH AFRICA UNDER THE AUSPICES OF SOUTH
AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. THE CONGRESSMEN IN QUESTION
TRAVELED TO SOUTH AFRICA IN 1975 AND 1976 AS GUESTS OF
SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN WERNER ACKERMAN(AND/OR
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ORGANIZATIONS WITH WHICH HE WAS ASSOCIATED),WHO
MAINTAINED THAT HE WAS PAYING FOR VISITS OUT OF HIS
OWN POCKET. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, THE STATE DEPARTMENT
OFFICIAL, WHO WAS "A SOUTH AFRICAN DESK OFFICER" AT
THE TIME, TOLD THE CONGRESSMEN THAT THE DEPARTMENT
HAD CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
WAS FUNDING THE TRIPS AND USING ACKERMAN AS A FRONT. HE

EXPLICITLY WARNED THEM THAT ACCEPTANCE OF ACKERMAN'S OFFER WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF U.S. LAW.

3. IF THIS STORY BREAKS, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD WANT TO BE IN A POSITION TO SAY EXACTLY WHAT THE CONGRESSMEN WERE TOLD BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL. SINCE BOTH OF YOU WERE COUNTRY OFFICERS DURING THE TIME OF THE ACKERMAN-SPONSORED TRIPS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHED ON THIS QUESTION. VANCE

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